

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5:

This application claims the benefit of International Patent Application No. PCT/BE2003/00165 filed October 2, 2003, which claims priority of Belgian Patent Application No. 2002/0574, filed October 4, 2002.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

BACKGROUND

~~The present invention relates to a~~ A distributor for a rotary filter comprising filtration cells rotating in a circular movement, comprising is disclosed. Known distributors include:

- a fixed collector part comprising at least two compartments, which each have an upward opening in the form of an arc of a circle and at least one liquid discharge pipe, and a central separator chamber, which comprises a downward opening putting the separator chamber in communication with each of the said compartments and a gas outlet pipe, the said downward opening being disposed at a level lower than the said upward opening of each of the compartments,
- a movable distributor part which slides over the collector part during the said circular movement and which comprises, per filtration cell, an alveolus having an inlet for receiving a filtered liquid/gas mixture coming from the filtration cell and an outlet which passes opposite the said arc-shaped opening in each of the said compartments during the said circular movement, thus allowing passage of the said mixture in the said collector part, and
- means for putting the separator chamber under negative pressure, so as to cause a separation of gas from the liquid/gas mixture flowing in the said compartments of the collector part, with an upward movement of the gas in the separator chamber from its downward opening.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

The drawback of the such distributors ~~according to the prior art~~ is that, given this minimum cross section of the central separator chamber, they have an unfavourable overall bulk at the middle of the rotary filter, which results in a greater consumption of friction energy and an additional cost of making the apparatus.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

SUMMARY

~~The aim of the present invention is to develop a~~ The distributor disclosed here for a rotary filter ~~which~~ allows effective separation between liquid and gas in the filtered mixture coming from the filtration cells of the rotary filter, whilst offering the advantage of reduced bulk.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

~~To reduce these problems, a distributor as described at the beginning has been provided according to the invention, in which, in~~ In vertical projection, the downward opening of the central separator chamber and the said upward opening of each compartment of the collector part of the distributor described here overlap partially. Therefore, in the fixed collector part, instead of juxtaposing a central separator chamber at the centre of the compartments, the distributor ~~according to the invention~~ provides a central separator chamber which projects downwards below the arc-shaped upward openings of the compartments. The result is an acknowledged reduction in the bulk of the distributor overall, in order to obtain an at least identical if not increased efficacy of the liquid/gas separation in the filtered mixture.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

According to a preferred embodiment ~~of the invention~~, the central separator chamber has an external peripheral wall which, at least at a level situated below each upward opening, extends so as to be inclined downwards and towards the outside and thus forms, in the said compartments, a deflector which diverts the liquid/gas mixture towards the outside of these in

a first direction and allows a separation of the gas from this mixture in a second direction oriented at 180° with respect to the first direction. The liquid/gas mixture coming from the alveoli of the movable distributor part bounces on the deflector in a direction oriented obliquely downwards and outwards. The gases are on the other hand drawn into the central chamber whilst being oriented by the deflector obliquely upwards and towards the top of the central chamber, that is to say at 180° with respect to the direction of the liquid phase. The efficacy of the liquid/gas separation is thus improved by a pre-separation due to the impact on the deflector, followed immediately by a reversal of the direction of flow of the gases at 180°.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

Other embodiments of the distributor ~~according to the invention~~ are indicated in the accompanying claims.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

Other details and particularities of the ~~invention~~ distributor will emerge from the description given below, non-limitingly and with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Please insert the following paragraph beginning on page 3, line 26:

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2 depicts a view in partial axial section of a distributor ~~according to the invention~~ described herein, along the line II-II in Figure 3.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 4 and 5 are views similar to Figures 2 and 3 of a ~~variant~~ another embodiment of the distributor ~~according to the invention~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

Although the present ~~descriptive document~~ description applies particularly to the example of continuous rotary filters with cells, preferably tiltable, the ~~invention must~~ distributor is not be ~~considered to be~~ limited to these continuous rotary filters but applies in general to distributors of vacuum rotary filters with a substantially horizontal filtration surface of other types.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The example embodiments illustrated in Figures 2 to 5 have been shown schematically solely to the extent of 50%, since the other half is either entirely identical or has differences without significance ~~for the invention~~, for example with regard to the part of the collector base situated facing a section of the rotating filter without filtration or washing.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

~~The~~ This arrangement ~~according to the invention~~ therefore simultaneously affords greater efficacy of separation between liquid and gas through a width of downward opening of the central separator chamber which is as large or even larger than the distributors of the prior art, and through a 180° reversal of the gas stream, without passing through horizontal gas flow steps. At the same time it makes it possible to obtain compact equipment.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

It is in fact possible to provide a compact distributor ~~according to the invention~~ having an outside diameter of around 2.700 mm. Such a distributor can be arranged in a rotary filter having for example a useful surface of 230 m² and a weight of 9.2 t.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

The distributor illustrated in Figures 4 and 5 is ~~a variant~~ another embodiment ~~according to the invention~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

It must be understood that the present ~~invention~~ distributor is in no way limited to the embodiments described above and that many modifications can be made thereto without departing from the scope of the accompanying claims.